



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2089**



Introduced by Representative Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the immediate environs of the San Pablo Church located in the Municipality of San Pablo, Province of Isabela, as a tourism destination.

The San Pablo Church, built in 1624, is the oldest church in the Province of Isabela and is renowned for its six-level bell tower, the tallest in the entire Cagayan Valley. Despite the damage it sustained during the Second World War, its faithful restoration preserved its architectural integrity and enhanced its cultural significance. Today, it stands as a beacon of history, faith, and heritage, drawing pilgrims and tourists alike.

This measure was already passed on Third Reading in the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress. This version was the result of the collaborative efforts of the Committee on Tourism, concerned government agencies, and key stakeholders to promote responsible tourism while ensuring the preservation of our historical and cultural landmarks.

By declaring the area surrounding the San Pablo Church as a tourism destination, the bill aims to prioritize the site's development, improve accessibility and safety, and bolster local economic activity. At the same time, it mandates the implementation of conservation measures to safeguard the church's historical and cultural value.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO “TONYPET” T. ALBANO



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AN ACT

**DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE SAN PABLO CHURCH
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF
ISABELA, A TOURISM DESTINATION**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of the San Pablo Church
2 located in the Municipality of San Pablo, Province of Isabela, are
3 hereby declared as a tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, the
4 development of the immediate environs of the San Pablo Church shall
5 be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT),
6 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
7 tourism destinations

8 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the
9 municipal government of San Pablo shall, in coordination with the
10 DOT, Department of Public Works and Highways, National Historical
11 Commission of the Philippines and other concerned government
12 agencies, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the

1 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate
2 infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the
3 immediate environs surrounding the San Pablo Church, thereby
4 ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That
5 said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
6 conservation of the historical significance of the San Pablo Church.
7 *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism
8 development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal
9 government of San Pablo.

10 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of San
11 Pablo in the implementation of the tourism development plan by
12 providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall
13 also include the immediate environs of the San Pablo Church in its
14 national and regional promotion programs.

15 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
16 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of San
17 Pablo. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-
18 generated funds.

19 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
20 the municipal government of San Pablo shall, in consultation with
21 the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules
22 and regulations to implement this Act.

1 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

Approved,